



**ARIZONA READY EDUCATION COUNCIL  
K-20 EDUCATION FUNDING TASKFORCE  
November 1, 2012 @ 7:30-9:30am  
1700 W. Washington, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room  
Phoenix, AZ 85007**

**Meeting Notes**

**Present:** Dr. Craig Barrett, Susan Carlson, Tim Carter, Chuck Essigs, Hugh Hallman, Alan Maguire, Stacey Morley (telephonic), Colleen Niccum (telephonic), and Doreen Zannis

**Members Absent:** Dr. Tom Anderes, Dr. Rufus Glasper, Jay Kaprozy, and Jaime Molera

**Staff:** Dale Frost, Rebecca Gau, and Kerry McConnell

**Call to Order, Welcome & Introductions**

Dr. Barrett called the meeting to order at 7:38 a.m., provided welcoming remarks and reviewed the purpose of this meeting, which is to get an update on the funding research including a clarification of communications with ABEC and discuss and approve materials for presentation to the full council.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Hugh Hallman moved for the approval of the October 1, 2012 Task Force meeting minutes as presented. Dr. Craig Barrett seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Update: ABEC Communication**

Dr. Barrett introduced Rebecca Gau with the Governor's Office of Education Innovation who offered clarification to the members regarding communications about the ABEC funding model. Ms. Gau explained briefly to the members the confusion with using the term "ABEC Model" in referring to the student weight research the Staff is working on. Ms. Gau advised that after discussions with the Task Force and ABEC that Staff found there were two pieces of the ABEC Model. One was how the base was calculated and second was how to calculate weights once the base is established. Ms. Gau explained that Staff has been focused on the weights portion of the model. Ms. Gau also advised that the base funding that Staff has been working with is the current allocation base since using best practices in calculating the base is very difficult to do without a data system. Ms. Gau advised that regrettably Staff is unable to do this research at this time, but has been able to take a closer look into the weights portion. Susan Carlson suggested that since we are looking at the current base the research be no longer referred to as the ABEC Model.

### **Update: Funding Research**

Dr. Barrett introduced Kerry McConnell with the Governor's Office of Education Innovation who gave an update on the current funding research. Ms. McConnell focused on two areas;

- Student Weighted Funding
- Research Proposal

Ms. McConnell advised that on her "first pass" of the weighted research she changed the student weighted count to only include;

- Group B Special Education (remains the same)
- K – 3 (remains the same)
- ELL (changed)
- Poverty (added)
- Special Education (non-Group B)

Ms. McConnell advised that what this eliminated from the current funding is the Preschool, K-8 and 9-12 weights. She also changed the base level amount to be the same for all schools. Ms. McConnell advised that she currently is looking for "winners and losers" in the new weighted formula and can look into the possibility of compensations for some schools (small/rural) based on these outcomes if needed. Hugh Hallman advised that he would be interested in seeing funding with no weights and increase base funding. Ms. McConnell did advise that increasing the base and decreasing weights is an interesting idea and she would look into adding this option into the next pass. Ms. McConnell also shared with the members NGA report on student weighted funding in a selection of US cities. Ms. McConnell shared with the Members a table that showed examples of the cities involved and what type of weighted funding they participated in.

Ms. McConnell then shared with the members the weights that she is using in her research. These weights were based off of average daily membership (ADM) with the exception of the poverty weight which is based off of enrollment.

- ELL Weight = 0.5
- Poverty Weight (Ec Dis) = 0.24
- Special Ed Weight = 0.15
- Base Level Amount = \$3,267.72

Ms. McConnell advised that the ELL and poverty weights were based off of the high end of the spectrum based on the NGA report. She advised the Special Ed is based off of the elementary weight for the state. Ms. McConnell then reviewed the "winners and losers" for this model. She identified a few schools state wide that had both large gains and losses and will move forward in researching the reasons for these. Ms. McConnell advised that these schools were identified based on the percentage of loss and gain. Members felt it would be important in future analysis the actual difference in dollar amounts being paid should be looked at along with percentages. Ms. McConnell advised that she would look into actual dollars lost and gained on future analysis.

Finally Ms. McConnell advised the members on her next steps. She will look further into the "winners and losers" to find why they had the gains and losses that the research reflected. Ms. McConnell also advised that she would like to explore the relationships between funding, school characteristics, student characteristics, and performance measures to determine what successful schools spend in certain areas.

Taskforce members commented on the need to simplify the funding formula. Members discussed the pros and cons of student weighting including possible political ramifications.

**Review & Discussion: Materials to be presented to the Council**

Dr. Barrett introduced Dale Frost with the Governor's Office who updated the Members on the recommendations that are to be presented to the Arizona Ready Education Council (Council) in November. Mr. Frost explained that the recommendations were updated per the Task Force Members feedback from October. Members reviewed the updated recommendations and offered some additional feedback for Mr. Frost to include in the version presented to the Council, such as adding in some examples to help demonstrate the principle of each recommendation. This item was not voted on by the Task Force Members; however Members did agree to put these recommendations forward to the Council with the requested updates.

**Taskforce Comments**

Dr. Barrett reviewed next steps:

- Present the recommendations with examples to the Council in order to obtain their buy in

Next Meeting:

- December 6

**Call to the Public**

There were no requests from the public to address the Taskforce.

**Adjourn**

With no further business before the Taskforce, Hugh Hallman motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Alan Maguire and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:21 a.m.